



DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Office of Health Care Quality

Spring Grove Center • Bland Bryant Building

55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228-4663

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

From: Nancy Grimm, RN, Esq.
Director, Office of Health Care Quality

To: All Licensed Health Care Facilities

Date: October 26, 2012

Re: Reporting of Environmental Issues related to Extreme Weather Events

With the extreme weather that the State of Maryland is expecting over the next week due to Hurricane Sandy, facilities may experience a loss of power or other emergency related issues. It is expected that all providers have emergency plans in place to accommodate any potential disruptions to facilities as a result of the storm.

These plans must include immediate notification to the Local Health Department (LHD) in your specific jurisdiction of any storm related situations that may be occurring within your facilities, or in the case of dialysis providers, to the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ). Types of issues could include, but are not limited to, the failure of cooling or heating systems, power outages, water outages, flooding or other conditions that could impact the health, safety, and/or well being of your residents or the operation of your facility. Should non-dialysis providers experience a problem during business hours or non-business hours, please call the numbers provided by your LHD. For dialysis providers, please contact OHCQ during business hours at 410-402-8015. The number to call after normal business hours is 410-402-8280.

For hospitals, contact your local Emergency Management Agency or Local Health Department for immediate assistance. If you have difficulties contacting them through your normal methods, please contact EMRC through your ED Console or by calling 800-648-3001.

Failure to exercise prompt notification may result in sanctions and disciplinary action from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Cc: Joshua Sharfstein, M.D.
Patrick Dooley
Frances Phillips